

Development of Rural Pioneers' Role in Egypt⁽¹⁾

A study of "Operative Suggestions for Strengthening the Role of Rural Pioneers in Family Planning and Development" was prepared (in Arabic) by Dr. Haifa Al-Shanawany, at the request of the Supreme Council for Population and Family Planning in Cairo, Research Office, 1981.

This study is made up of three parts. The first gives the history of the Rural Pioneers Project, begun in 1964. It describes the method of choosing the Pioneer, defines her work as a link between the Services Sector and the population, shows her role in the field of awareness and development projects, and points out the handicaps faced by the project.

The second part deals with the role played by the Rural Pioneers in the Population and Development Project. It expands the description of their activities, their training, their program of work, their role in information, the supervision, follow-up and evaluation of their work, their training centers and their distribution among the twelve muhafazats (districts).

The third part gives "operative suggestions for

strengthening the role of Rural Pioneers in family planning and development". It contains directions regarding the pioneer's work in family planning, health care, mother and child welfare, nurseries, arts and crafts centers and other production projects.

The main suggestions are briefly given as follows:

1. Participation of rural pioneers in monthly meetings of the advisory committee of each local unit.

2. Coordination of work and distribution of responsibilities between the pioneers of social affairs and those of family planning.

3. Preliminary training of population and development pioneers should be remunerated for the period of the first three weeks. It should be carried out in the training centers of Social Affairs directorates.

4. Selection of distinguished pioneers for supervision, and the follow-up of a group of pioneers laying out a work plan for them.

5. Encouraging women's clubs and centers affiliated with Social Affairs by securing cooperation between Social Affairs and Population and Development pioneers. Financial help to the clubs could be supplied.

This list is followed by a detailed work plan for rural pioneers in the fields already mentioned.

(1) See Al-Raida, Aug. 1979, vol. II, no. 9, p.12, "Rural Pioneers in the Fiume District of Egypt."